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December 27, 2021

Latest News

Townships Receive ARLE Grants

The state Department of Transportation will distribute nearly \$13 million in Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) grants to 22 municipalities to fund 28 safety projects. Half of the awards will go to townships. These grants are funded by fines from red light violations at certain intersections in Philadelphia. To learn more and see the list of awardees, [click here](#).

Reminder: Having Issues with U.S. Treasury Portal for American Rescue Plan?

As we reported last week, township officials may access the new U.S. Treasury Portal for the American Rescue Plan through [Login.gov](#), which will be used to file required reports for the American Rescue Plan funds. Note that you will use the same login information that you use to login to SAM.gov and the federal CDL Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse.

If you have technical issues with your account, please email covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov and copy PSATS Policy/Research Analyst Katie Lizza at klizza@psats.org. Please note that PSATS has heard of two instances where it appears that two townships were merged into a single account. If you believe you may have a similar issue, such as individuals not associated with your township listed in your account or an incorrect DUNS number, please call PSATS at 717-763-0930 or email klizza@psats.org.

To learn how to set up your account the first time, [click here](#). To view the new user's

guide for NEUs, which describes how to set up accounts, assign reporting roles, and provide required documentation on the use of the funds, [click here](#). The first report is due **April 30, 2022**. Please note that while you can now access your account, you cannot begin to file the annual report. Townships will be notified once this part of the site is open.

Pa. COVID-19 Case Counts Up, Hospitalizations Down

64,229 new cases of COVID-19 were reported last week in Pennsylvania, an increase of 22% compared to the prior week. The statewide COVID-19 total case count now stands at 1,954,488. The commonwealth dropped to 18th in cases per 100,000 nationally, with Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey now in the top three.

After six weeks of increases, the [number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in Pennsylvania](#) decreased from 4,527 to 4,359. 902 patients are in the ICU, a decrease from the previous week's 933. Total deaths in Pennsylvania have reached 36,050 with 652 new deaths reported this week, a decrease compared to the previous week.

Pennsylvania's statewide percent-positivity rate increased from 14.4% to 15.3% this week. Four counties have rates of 5% to less than 10% (*compared to five last week*); 54 counties have rates of 10% to less than 20% (*compared to 47 last week*); and nine counties have a rate of at least 20% but less than 30% (*compared to 15 last week*). [Click here](#) for more county-specific information.

Today in History.....

On December 27, 1932, At the height of the Great Depression, thousands turn out for the opening of Radio City Music Hall, a magnificent Art Deco theater in New York City. Radio City Music Hall was designed as a palace for the people, a place of beauty where ordinary people could see high-quality entertainment. Since its opening, more than 300 million people have gone to Radio City to enjoy movies, stage shows, concerts and special events.

[Click here](#) to view the most recent issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Legislation & Policy



Wolf Signs New Acts

Gov. Tom Wolf signed two new acts of interest to townships:

[Act 96 of 2021](#) (*HB 2071*) will create a **Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority** to disburse state and federal funds for the expansion of broadband to unserved and underserved areas,

coordinate broadband development, and produce a statewide broadband development plan. The authority is needed to access \$100 million in federal aid for broadband rollout. The act addresses a PSATS resolution. The act was signed and took effect December 22, 2021.

[Act 97 of 2021 \(SB 208\)](#) amends the **Municipalities Planning Code** to clarify that a municipality may not require a developer to post a bond of more than 110% of the costs of the improvements. The act clarifies that a municipality may retain 110% of the estimated cost of the remaining improvements. Act 97 was signed December 22 and takes effect February 20, 2022.

PSATS did not support this bill as indicated in the erroneous sponsorship memo.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

[Webinar - Everything You Wanted to Know About Your VFD - But Were Afraid to Ask - 1/5/22](#)

This conversation will outline some of the forces converging on today's volunteers and will focus on offering solutions for the community and its first responders to move forward together towards adequate and affordable public safety services.



[Webinar - Should We Have an Ordinance for That? - 1/12/22](#)

In this webinar, representatives from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will review key issues that are important to your township's comprehensive planning and implementation efforts (using Susquehanna Township as an example), including infrastructure, land development, open space, housing/building stock, cultural resources, and transportation.



[Webinar - Our Board is Divided – What Now? - 1/19/22](#)

In this webinar, we will discuss a variety of common “divided board” issues, including filling vacancies on the board of supervisors, what to do when a supervisor abstains from voting to avoid controversial issues, the role of the chair in bringing order to the meeting, and the rights of supervisors to address topics that are not on the agenda.



[Webinar - What USDA Rural Development Can Do for Your Townships - 1/25/22](#)

In this webinar, you will learn about how your township can benefit from more than 50 loan and grant programs administered by USDA.



[Webinar - Stormwater Management: An Annoying Requirement, Simplified - 1/26/22](#)

This webinar is designed to provide participants with an overview of the challenges and best practices associated with managing a township’s many stormwater-related responsibilities – in a way that is user friendly and easy to understand.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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